

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An accelerator composition adapted to be used for use with sprayed cementitious compositions, which is comprises an aqueous solution or dispersion of a blend of the ~~essential Components 1-3~~:

~~Component 1~~ [[-]] about 30 to about 60% aluminium sulphate, calculated on the basis of 17% aluminium sulphate,

~~Component 2~~ [[-]] about 0.1 to about 15% of at least one of an alkanolamine, and an alkylene diamine or alkylene triamine,

~~Component 3~~ [[-]] about 0.2 to about 8% hydrofluoric acid,

and at least one of:

(a) up to about 15% of at least one of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium sulphate, potassium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, or lithium sulphate; or

(b) up to about 15% of at least one of C₁ - C₁₀ aliphatic monocarboxylic acids, a metal salt of C₁ - C₁₀ aliphatic monocarboxylic acids, C₁ - C₁₀ aliphatic dicarboxylic acids or a metal salt of C₁ - C₁₀ aliphatic dicarboxylic acids.

~~optionally with at least one of Components 4-7, with the proviso that at least one of Component 4 or Component 5 be present:~~

~~Component 4 — at least one of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium sulphate, potassium sulphate, magnesium sulphate and lithium sulphate;~~

~~Component 5 — C₁ - C₁₀ aliphatic mono- and dicarboxylic acids and their metal salts;~~

~~Component 6 — aluminium hydroxide;~~

~~Component 7—at least one of phosphoric acid and phosphorous acid.~~

~~the ingredients being present in the following proportions (active ingredients by weight);~~

~~Component 1—from 30 to 60%, calculated on the basis of 17% aluminium sulphate;~~

~~Component 2—from 0.1 to 15%~~

~~Component 3—from 0.2 to 8.0%~~

~~Component 4—up to 15%~~

~~Component 5—up to 15%~~

~~Component 6—up to 15%~~

~~Component 7—up to 5%~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The accelerator ~~according to~~ of claim 2 1, in which ~~Component 4~~ at least one of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium sulphate, potassium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, or lithium sulphate is present and contains alkali metal ~~to the extent in the~~ range of from about 1[[-]] to about 8.5% Na₂O equivalent.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The accelerator ~~according to~~ of claim 3, in which the alkali metal equivalent is up to about 5% Na₂O equivalent ~~maximum.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A method of applying a cementitious composition to a substrate by spraying, comprising the steps of mixing a batch of fluid cementitious composition and conveying it to a spray nozzle, there being injected at the nozzle ~~an~~ the accelerator ~~according to~~ of claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) A hardened cementitious layer applied to a substrate by spraying through a spray nozzle, there having been added at the nozzle ~~an~~ the accelerator ~~according to~~ of claim 1.

7. (New) The accelerator of claim 1 further comprising up to about 15% aluminium hydroxide.

8. (New) The accelerator of claim 1 further comprising up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.
9. (New) The accelerator of claim 7 further comprising up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.
10. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% aluminium hydroxide.
11. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.
12. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.
13. (New) The method of claim 5, in which at least one of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium sulphate, potassium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, or lithium sulphate is present and contains alkali metal in the range of from about 1 to about 8.5% Na_2O equivalent.
14. (New) The method of claim 13, in which the alkali metal equivalent is up to about 5% Na_2O equivalent.
15. (New) The hardened cementitious layer of claim 6 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% aluminium hydroxide.
16. (New) The hardened cementitious layer of claim 6 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.
17. (New) The hardened cementitious layer of claim 15 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.

18. (New) The accelerator of claim 6, in which at least one of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium sulphate, potassium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, or lithium sulphate is present and contains alkali metal in the range of from about 1 to about 8.5% Na_2O equivalent.
19. (New) The accelerator of claim 18, in which the alkali metal equivalent is up to about 5% Na_2O equivalent.